

# THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN NATURALIST

Vol. 9

MARCH 10, 1965

No. 7

## SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE ON THE INTRODUCED TURTLEDOVES IN W.A.

By ERIC H. SEDGWICK, Harvey.

Since the result of an enquiry into the distribution of the two species of *Streptopelia* in W.A. was published in 1958 (*W. Aust. Nat.*, 6: 92, 109) a relatively small amount of supplementary material has come to hand, but much of this is of interest and is now set down.

The following observers will be identified by their initials only: Julian Ford (J.F.), Don Reid (D.R.), Eric H. Sedgwick (E.H.S.), L. E. Sedgwick (L.E.S.), D. L. Serventy (D.L.S.), G. M. Storr (G.M.S.) and S. R. White (S.R.W.).

Notes on records in new localities and significant confirmations of previous records follow.

**BAANDEE. Senegal (*S. senegalensis*):** Two noted by G.M.S. on Dec. 2, 1959. D.L.S. and G.M.S. noted three birds in a pepper tree, *Schinus molle*, at a farmhouse one mile west of the town on Aug. 22, 1960. D.L.S. noted one, four miles west of the town, flying east on Jan. 18, 1964.

**BRUCE ROCK. Senegal:** Several noted by G.M.S. on July 15, 1958, and four on June 27, 1963. A new locality for this species.

**BUNGULLA. Senegal:** On Sept. 2, 1961, D.L.S. and G.M.S. noted one bird two miles east of Bungulla.

**BUSSELTON. Indian (*S. chinensis*):** S.R.W. reports that this species is said to have been released in Busselton by Mr G. R. Bunbury in 1929. There are still no recent records of turtledoves in this locality.

**CLACKLINE. Senegal:** G.M.S. noted one on Dec. 22, 1962. A new locality for this species.

**COLLIE. Senegal:** E.H.S., who remained in Collie until 1963, continued to note doves, but has no reason to suppose that more than one or two were present.

**COOKERNUP. Indian:** S.R.W. brings to notice a report that Indian Turtledoves were released from "Homebush," the McCallum Smith estate at Cookernup, in 1929.

**DALWALLINU. Senegal:** G.M.S. noted four on July 30, 1963. A new locality for this species.

**DANGIN. Senegal:** G.M.S. noted three on June 27, 1963.

**DARDANUP. Senegal:** E.H.S. noted one bird just out of Dardanup on the Ferguson Valley Road on Oct. 3, 1959. Habitat was a timbered road through farmland, mainly pasture. A new locality for this species.

**DONGARA. Senegal:** G.M.S. noted one on eastern outskirts and one on northern outskirts of the town on June 20, 1959; four in the town on April 21, 1960, single birds one and two miles north on Oct. 30, 1961; one in the town on May 14, 1963, and one a mile east on May 25, 1963. E.H.S. observed one bird about one mile east of town on Aug. 26, 1961.

**DOODLAKINE. Senegal:** Four noted by G.M.S. on Dec. 2, 1959, and Dec. 22, 1962. Five noted by D.L.S. on Aug. 27, 1960, and one by D.L.S. and G.M.S. on Sept. 3, 1961.

**GARDEN ISLAND. Senegal:** G.M.S. noted one only at Perkin Point in July 1959.

**Indian:** Several noted by G.M.S. in 1959.

**GERALDTON. Senegal:** G.M.S. contributes the following notes: April 15, 1959. Senegals very common round big wheat bins west of town. Also seen on southern outskirts of town and a single bird near an isolated house four miles south of town.

June 20, 1959. One seen one-half mile south of isolated house.

Sept. 4, 1959, and April 21, 1960. Senegals in town and to three miles south.

August 1, 1961. In town and eight miles north (6 birds), eleven miles north (2) and twelve miles north (3).

Oct. 30, 1961. Several seen from eight miles south to nine miles north of town.

Feb. 18, 1962. Several seen from six miles south to twelve miles north.

Jan. 7, 1963. Several from four miles south to eight miles north.

May 14, 1963. Several from one to four miles north.

Nov. 25, 1963. Several in northern outskirts of town and up to seven miles north.

**GERALDTON-CARNARVON ROAD. Senegal:** E. Lindgren saw one bird on August 19, 1964, at the Billabong Service Station, 30 miles south of the Hamelin Pool turn-off (Tank No. 5, Overlander service station). A new locality and the furthest north the species has been recorded.

**GINGIN. Senegal:** G.M.S. heard calls near the Railway Station on Oct. 3, 1959. Mr W. H. Matthews saw three birds at the town on Nov. 11, 1963. A new locality for this species.

**GOOSEBERRY HILL (THE KNOLL). Indian:** The area has been under regular observation by D.L.S. since September 1957; occasionally one or two individuals are seen; a new locality for the species. The Senegal was never recorded during this period.

**GREENMOUNT. Senegal:** Noted by G.M.S. on Dec. 2, 1959. A new locality for this species.

**GREENOUGH. Senegal:** G.M.S. noted two birds four miles north of town and one bird two miles south of town on April 25, 1960; two birds five miles north of town on Feb. 18, 1962; one in the town on Nov. 4, 1962, and one eleven miles south of it on May 25, 1963. A new locality for this species.

**HARVEY. Senegal:** E.H.S. observed single birds on the town-site during late 1962 and early 1963. There was no evidence of more than one or two birds until May 24, 1963. Three were present until May 26 when four were seen. On May 27, five were seen.

**Indian:** Observed by S.R.W. at Agricultural School during 1956. A new locality for the species.

**HINES HILL. Senegal:** G.M.S. saw one in the town, two a mile west and one three miles west on Sept. 3, 1961.

**HOVEA. Indian:** Seven birds noted by G.M.S. on Aug. 14, 1959. A new locality for this species.

**KALGOORLIE. Senegal and Indian:**

G.M.S. reports: "Aug. 15, 1959. Eleven Senegal Doves in the vicinity of the hospital and another four north of the shopping centre at Lamington. Two Indian doves with Senegals north of Lamington and another two at the Railway Station. I searched much of Kalgoorlie and Boulder on foot this day." An Indian Dove was seen by G.M.S. in the west end of Hannan Street on December 5, 1962. On June 28, 1963, G.M.S. saw a Senegal Dove flying into a date palm in a park with a twig in its bill.

D.R. reports: Mar. 24, 1960. "At present I feel that the dove stronghold is Lamington, i.e. north of the railway in Kalgoorlie. Occasional birds of both species can be seen elsewhere in Kalgoorlie and Boulder, but they are definitely most evident in the first mentioned area . . . . As to their greater concentration in Lamington, I feel that it is mainly a function of vegetation. In general Lamington has more and bigger gardens, and many more trees than the rest of Kalgoorlie-Boulder. They appear to feed largely with the local poultry and cage birds and these are fairly uniformly scattered, so I tend to look for some other factor than food supplies."

D.L.S. and G.M.S. reported one Indian Turtle dove on September 3, 1961 (Lamington).

**KATANNING. Senegal:** Noted several times by E.H.S. and L.E.S. on Sept. 25 and 26, 1960. The species now appears to be well established. L.E.S. residing in this town for the preceding four months had not encountered the Indian Turtle dove.

**KONNONGORRING. Senegal:** G.M.S. saw two on August 14, 1961. A new locality for this species.

**LIVESEY. Senegal:** On Aug. 13, 1960, D.L.S. noted one bird one mile east and one bird eight miles east of Livesey. A new locality for this species.

**MECKERING. Senegal:** G.M.S. reports five Senegal Doves on Aug. 16 and one bird on Dec. 2, 1950, and one on Dec. 5, 1962. D.L.S. observed two birds in display flight one mile east of the town on Aug. 13, 1960.

MERREDIN. **Senegal:** G.M.S. noted many Senegal Doves, both in the railway yards and in residential areas, on June 15, 1959. On Aug. 16, 1959, on Dec. 2, 1959, and on June 27, 1963, again noted Senegal Doves. D.L.S. recorded one bird one mile west of the town on Aug. 27, 1960.

MIDDLE SWAN. **Senegal:** G.M.S. noted two Senegal Doves on Oct. 3, 1959.

MILLENDON. **Senegal:** G.M.S. noted this species on April 15 and Oct. 3, 1959.

NORTHAM. **Senegal:** G.M.S. noted five birds at East Northam on Aug. 16, 1959.

PARKERVILLE. **Indian:** One bird observed by G.M.S. on Aug. 14, 1959.

PINJARRA. **Indian:** S.R.W. reports at least two near the hotel. The first specific record for this locality.

PITHARA. **Senegal:** G.M.S. noted one on Aug. 14, 1961. A new locality for the species.

QUAIRADING. **Senegal:** G.M.S. noted one on June 27, 1963.

ROCKINGHAM. **Senegal:** G.M.S. noted Senegal Doves on Oct. 25, 1959, and E.H.S. noted two birds near the National Fitness Camp at Point Peron on July 24, 1960.

SOUTHERN CROSS. **Senegal:** On Jan. 25, 1964, D.L.S. observed one bird one mile east of Southern Cross. A new locality for this species.

STONEVILLE. **Indian:** G.M.S. noted three Indian Turtledoves on Aug. 14, 1959. A new locality for this species.

TAMMIN. **Senegal:** G.M.S. noted five Senegal Turtledoves on Aug. 16, 1959, and two on Dec. 22, 1962, two miles east of the town. D.L.S. and G.M.S. noted one bird in the town and four two miles west of it on Sept. 3, 1961.

TOODYAY. **Senegal:** G.M.S. noted one Senegal Turtledove at Key Farm, three miles south of Toodyay, on Sept. 19, 1959, five in the town on April 9, 1960, and one bird three miles north of the town on August 1, 1961.

VICTORIA PARK. **Turtledove (sp.):** Mr. Harry Turner states *in litt.*, "There were doves in the Victoria Park area prior to the first World War."

WALKAWAY. **Senegal:** J.F. reports two Senegal Turtledoves in a harvested wheat paddock. A new locality for this species.

WANNEROO. **Senegal:** Mr. Harry Turner states *in litt.*: "Since about 1956 I have owned a property in the Wanneroo district where I now have 133 acres with a lake frontage which I keep as a sanctuary for wild birds. Up till about four years ago Bronzewing Pigeons were plentiful and I have seen as many as seven together. Since then the doves have moved in and the Bronzewings moved out. . . . Now they are very common in the bush at Wanneroo, both the Indian and the Senegal species, but the latter in the great majority."

WINCHESTER. Senegal: G.M.S. noted two Senegal Turtledoves at a farmhouse three miles south of Winchester on April 15, 1959, and one at the same place on Nov. 5, 1962.

WOOLUNDRA. Senegal: Two noted by G.M.S. on Dec. 22, 1962.

#### SUMMARY

Recent records leave an impression that, especially in the Wheat-belt, more Senegal Doves are being observed away from towns. More locality records are reported for both species.

## ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE LIFE HISTORY OF THE MOUNTAIN DEVIL, *MOLOCH HORRIDUS*, IN CAPTIVITY

By C. C. SPORN, Mandurah.

In earlier numbers of this journal (*W. Aust. Nat.*, 5, 1955: 1; 6, 1958: 136) I gave accounts of the observations of my wife and myself on Mountain Devils (*Moloch horridus*) which we reared in captivity. Since the second article we have had further successes in the breeding of the young lizards, particulars of which may be placed on record, I am also providing additional data on various other aspects of the life history of the species gathered since my last publication.

#### BREEDING HISTORIES

There was a lean period between the years 1958 and 1963 when only one rather deformed little lizard emerged from a batch of eggs laid by a daughter of our old female "Florence." It lived only a few months and made scarcely any growth during that time. Of the remaining eggs five were added and the sixth contained a half-formed embryo. This we ascertained by digging out the burrow afterwards.

On November 2, 1962, "Deidre," a 4½-year-old granddaughter of "Florence," burrowed for the second time and on March 19, 1963, six young lizards scratched their way out from the burrow. This gave an incubation period of 132 days, the longest yet recorded. Five of these lizards have survived and have shown a somewhat greater rate of growth than that given in the table in my second article. This may, perhaps, be due to a more abundant food supply.

On October 22, 1963, "Florence's" daughter, "Judy," then 9½ years old, began excavating her sixth annual burrow and the next day "Deidre" also began operations. The egg-laying, filling in, etc., was finished off by both lizards by October 25. When "Deidre" began work she jumped "Judy's" claim and both were digging in the same hole. I started a little excavation a foot or two away from "Judy's" burrow and introduced "Deidre" to it. She was quite satisfied with this and carried on with the new tunnel, an awkward situation thus being averted. Two months later "Deidre" burrowed again and laid a second lot of eggs (number unknown) on December 29. This is the only instance I have known of a double clutch in